

~~SECRET SAVIN~~2/0/VCK/R36-66
182130Z MARCH 1966
DIST: 0/VN0254
0255UNIDENTIFIED HOSTILE AIRCRAFT DOWNED BY DRV SAM UNIT, 18 FEBRUARY 1966

SAM-ASSOCIATED VHF MULTICHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPT OF 18 FEBRUARY 1966, REFLECTED THE SHOOTDOWN OF AN UNIDENTIFIED HOSTILE AIRCRAFT AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY 12 NAUTICAL MILES (NM) SOUTH OF THANH HOA BY A DRV SAM UNIT AT APPROXIMATELY 0636Z.

THE HOSTILE TARGET WAS INITIALLY DETECTED AT A POINT OF 20-05N 104-59E, APPROXIMATELY 48 NM WEST NORTHWEST OF THANH HOA, AT 0629Z, FROM WHERE IT WAS TRACKED ON A SOUTHEASTERLY COURSE. AS THE HOSTILE TARGET APPROACHED A POSITION OF 19-39N 105-31E, THE SAM SITE, WHICH APPARENTLY CONDUCTED THE MISSILE LAUNCH, REPORTED A "LOCK ON" AT 0635Z. THE HOSTILE TARGET WAS LAST REFLECTED AT 0636Z, AT A POSITION OF 19-36N 105-41E, APPROXIMATELY 12 NM SOUTH OF THANH HOA. THE TARGET WAS REPORTED TO BE AT AN ALTITUDE OF 5,500 METERS (18,045 FEET) AT A SPEED OF 160 METERS PER SECOND (278 KNOTS). THE SAM SITE REPORTED THAT THE ORDER TO SHOOT WAS RECEIVED AT 0633Z.

AT APPROXIMATELY 0710Z, TWO UNIDENTIFIED/UNLOCATED SAM FACILITIES WERE NOTED DISCUSSING THE SHOOTDOWN OF AN AIRCRAFT. ONE SPEAKER ASKED, "DID THE AIRCRAFT FALL INTO THE SEA?". ALTHOUGH NO ANSWER TO THIS QUERY WAS INTERCEPTED, THE SAME SPEAKER REMARKED, "(IT) FELL IMMEDIATELY TO THE GROUND, CORRECT?". NO FURTHER CLARIFYING DATA WAS OBSERVED FOR THIS CONVERSATION.

COMMENTS

INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE SHOOTDOWN WERE NOT OF SUFFICIENT DEPTH SO AS TO PERMIT DETERMINING THE LOCATION OF THE SAM UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTDOWN.

ACCORDING TO A HANOI RADIO BROADCAST ON 18 FEBRUARY, A U.S. JET PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THANH HOA PROVINCE ON THAT DATE, AND THE PILOT OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS CAPTURED ALIVE.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS ONE PAGE

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